

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claim 48 is amended and claim 49 is canceled. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-17, 23-44, and 48 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-17, and 23-44 are allowed.

Claim 48 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Popek et al. (US 5,351,989). Claim 48 recites a closure member having an outer periphery secured to a first support member, a second support member centrally located relative to the closure member and defining a chamber into which a central portion of the closure member is deformed by the pressure of the inflation fluid. An initiator is located in the chamber. Claim 48 also recites the rupturable closure member having an annular portion that encircles the central portion and extends across an annular space defined between said first and second support members, said. This structure is not taught or suggested by Popek. Therefore, claim 48 should be allowed.

The Official Action of February 22, 2006 indicated that claim 49 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As amended, claim 48 includes all of the limitations of previous claim 49, except those regarding deformation of the annular portion of the closure member. This was discussed with Examiner Dunn via a telephone conversation on May 22, 2006 during which the Examiner indicated that he would review

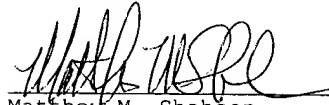
Serial No. 09/371,776

amended claim 48 when received. Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's willingness to cooperate.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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